

* Duxbury Playhouse Meeting Nov. 27

Looking toward a more successful season in 1951, the Directors of the Playhouse are calling a public meeting to be held on Monday, November 27, at 8 p.m., at the Unitarian Parish House. The purpose of the meeting is to make public the present position of this enterprise, which has added greatly to the summer attraction of this area, to answer any questions, and to plan for a more successful future.

It is the present expectation of the Directors that Mr. Albert Moritz will return in 1951.

The 1950 season was disappointing in many respects, notwithstanding the great success of several of the plays. The selection of the opening play and several others was unfortunate, some of the casting was ill judged, the school was not developed sufficiently, and the attendance was not all that was desired. Furthermore, expense commitments were unnecessarily large, inasmuch as much of the talent paid for was not fully utilized. The result was a loss of \$8,000 for the season.

Such experience is not unusual in a new enterprise and it takes lessons of this kind to develop the knowhow that makes for success.

The Directors realize that the Playhouse has many advantages and can be made to be one of the leading features of New England recreation.

An Ideal Setting

The property itself, comprising four acres on Duxbury Bay, is recognized as one of the best in New England. The beautiful and extensive site, the large stage with its revolving platform, the auditorium seating 350, the unusually large and pleasant lobbies, the auxiliary buildings for dormitories, dining-room, kitchen, shops, school and office, the ample drive-ways and lawns, and the large parking area, all make it the ideal summer theatre. The location on Bay Road, halfway between Duxbury and Kingston, and one quarter mile from Route 3A, gives it easy access to a large area including Duxbury, Kingston, Pembroke, Plymouth, and Marshfield, and even Brockton, Whitman, and other towns.

The stage settings and equipment are so excellent, have been so expertly handled, and so generously augmented by loans of furniture by generous residents, that comparison must be made not to amateur, but, in many respects, to the best professional settings in metropolitan centers.

Future Plans

The plans of the Directors for the future, whereby they hope to improve the productions and place the theatre on a paying basis, include the following:

1. A better selection of plays, emphasizing light comedies and musicals.
2. A larger school with expert instruction. Applications for next season are already coming in.
3. Less lavish commitments for unnecessary expenses.
4. Better lighting of the parking area.
5. Relieving the Theatrical Director of all responsibility for business arrangements. These will have the direct supervision of the Board of Directors.

It is also hoped that those interested in having the theatre continue will do more to promote attendance. Inviting the players to teas and cocktail parties is very helpful. Also, those giving beach or sailing parties might well suggest that the group go en masse to the theatre on the Dutch Treat plan.

These plans should make for profitable operations in the future, but the losses of the past must be dealt with. The Theatre has been acquired and developed at a cost of approximately \$45,650. This sum has been provided as follows: \$20,500 by the Directors, \$10,650 by stock-holders, \$4,500 by theatrical properties, and \$10,000 by mortgage. Certain bills incurred for construction in 1949, and many of the bills incurred in the 1950 operating season, have not been paid. At present, with only a few dollars on hand, the company owes on taxes and bills to merchant and service creditors, approximately \$7,500.

Money Needed

It is planned to raise \$10,000 to pay these bills and provide for opening the 1951 season. Plans are well in hand for this purpose, but the Directors hope that at this meeting some 25 or more persons will volunteer to help in raising money. It is hoped that 100 persons in this area will subscribe \$50 each, thus providing \$5,000. This will leave \$5,000 to be found by the Directors. The Directors also wish to find additional sums to make further improvements to the properties.

If the theatre is to continue and if Duxbury and the surrounding area are to continue to enjoy this great attraction, there must be united and enthusiastic community support.